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CORRESPONDENCE.

Early Migration of Wild Geese.

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

Dear Sirs:—Upon the 30th day of August, when in longitude 54° E. and latitude 45° N. (approximately), upon S. S. 'Minneapolis' bound from London to New York, I saw and pointed out to several of my fellow-passengers, three flocks of Geese flying due south, as near as could be

judged from the angle at which we saw them. They were very large flocks, and were unfortunately too distant to make their identity sure. That they were of the goose tribe was shown by their manner of flying, the V-formation being very perfect, and, as the flocks had upwards of a hundred in each, the long lines were not always perfectly steady, but waved slowly up and down like a blade of kelp in deep water. They may have been brant, or they may have been any one of the greater ducks, but they certainly were not gulls of any sort, and my belief is they were Canada Geese. I am very familiar with the flight of geese, and these flocks had all of the characteristics I have been accustomed to attribute to this regular migrant.

My question is, where were they bound at such an early date? They were heading into an open sea, and unless they changed their course, I do not believe they would have even sighted the Azores Islands. They may have been following some favorite great circle, or an upper air current not recognizable from the sea level.

The question was further brought home to me this morning (Sept. 17) by seeing from my window at half past seven o'clock, at Peace Dale, R. I., eight Wild Geese, near enough to be sure of, also flying south in an irregular manner, as if they had begun their fall migration. The date strikes me as being very early, and the suggestion of an early winter is undoubtedly conveyed to those wise in weather signs.

I should be glad if you could inquire through the columns of 'The Auk' for other notes of the southward flight of geese this year, and especially if anyone can suggest the probable destination of the flocks seen at sea.

ROWLAND G. HAZARD,

Peace Dale, R. I.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL CONGRESS of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, beginning on the evening of Monday, November 11, 1901. The evening session will be for the election of officers and members and for the transaction of the usual routine business. Final action will also be taken on the proposed amendments to the By-Laws, relating to the classes of membership, as approved at the last meeting of the Union (see Auk, Jan., 1901, p. 128). Tuesday and the following days, the sessions will be for the presentation and discussion of scientific papers, and will be open to the public. Members intending to present communications are requested to forward the titles of their papers to the Secretary, Mr. John H. Sage, Portland, Conn., so as to reach him not later than November 8.